

Nina Weber

Department of Political Economy
King's College London
Bush House (North East) 40
Aldwych, London, WC2B 4PX

Phone: +49 152 27163771
Email: nina.s.weber@kcl.ac.uk
Homepage: <https://ninasophieweber.com/>

Research Interests

Primary: Behavioural Economics, Experimental Economics, Political Economy

Secondary: Income Inequality, Social Mobility

Education

- 09/2019 - **PhD Political Economy**, King's College London
PGR Research Award 2022
Thesis: 'Essays on procedural fairness and distributive preferences'
- 09/2019 **MA Political Economy**, King's College London
Distinction, 1st in class, and best dissertation prize
Thesis: 'Does social mobility impact support for redistribution? - A cross-country analysis' (83)
- 08/2017 **BSc Political Economy**, King's College London
First-class honours
Thesis: 'Do we choose the difference principle? - Preferences for redistribution under an experimental veil of ignorance' (74)

Research Visits

- 05/2022 - 06/2022 **Visiting PhD Student**, WZB Berlin, Research Unit 'Economics of Change'
Host: Prof. Steffen Huck
- 10/2021 - 12/2021 **Visiting PhD Student**, FAIR Centre, Norwegian School of Economics
Host: Prof. Bertil Tungodden

Past Employment

- 2019 - 2020 **Research Assistant**, CESS Nuffield, University of Oxford
- 2017 - 2018 **Analyst**, BlackRock, London, UK

Main Working Papers

Prosocial Risk-Taking: Growing the Pie or Increasing your Slice (*Job Market Paper*)

Many risky decisions, such as starting a business, have the potential to increase overall welfare by creating positive externalities for society. Rewarding such prosocial risk-taking may be an important strategy in addressing societal challenges such as the climate emergency. A fundamental constraint for policy makers are however individuals' distributive preferences. I provide a theoretical framework and first experimental test of how distributive preferences are affected by potential positive externalities of risky behaviour.

Experience of Social Mobility and Support for Redistribution: Beating the Odds or Blaming the System?

How does the experience of social mobility affect people's distributive preferences? Using cross-country survey data and a survey experiment, I examine the effects of experienced social mobility on support for redistribution. The results indicate an asymmetric relationship – experiencing downward mobility increases support for redistribution while experiencing upward mobility does not affect distributive preferences. This finding suggests a potential demand-side explanation for the Great Gatsby Curve: As overall absolute mobility decreases (increases), *ceteris paribus*, demand for redistribution also decreases (increases).

Non-selfish behavior: Are social preferences or social norms revealed in distribution decisions? *with Shaun Hargreaves Heap and Konstantinos Matakos*

People frequently choose to reduce own payoffs to help others. This non-selfish behavior is typically assumed to arise because people are motivated by social preferences. An alternative explanation is that they follow social norms. We test which of these two accounts can better explain subjects' decisions in a simple distribution game. We find that norm-following explains people's distributive choices better than social preferences, and lack of confidence in one's social preference predicts norm-following.

Why do (some) ordinary Americans support tax cuts for the rich? Evidence from a randomized survey experiment *with David Hope and Julian Limberg*

Why do (some) ordinary citizens support tax cuts for the rich? We use a randomized survey experiment in the US to identify the drivers of preferences for cutting taxes on the rich. We find that preferences for taxing the rich are fundamentally affected by information that shifts citizens' core fairness beliefs, as well as information on the past trajectory of top tax rates.

Social preferences and the Value of Life: Evidence fairness matters *with Shaun Hargreaves Heap, Christel Koop, Konstantinos Matakos and Asli Unan*

In an online survey we elicit and compare the value of statistical life (VSL) using a standard willingness-to-pay (WTP) for a reduction in the personal chances of death with an analogous social planner type question that we design to engage better with people's social preferences. Our results indicate that standard figures significantly underestimate the VSL that is appropriate for major policy interventions. Taking social preferences into account doubles the VSL.

Covid-19 Research

"Good news reduces trust in government and its efficacy: The case of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine announcement" *with Shaun Hargreaves Heap, Christel Koop, Konstantinos Matakos and Asli Unan*. **PLOS ONE**, 2021, **16** (12).

"COVID-19 and People's Health-Wealth Preferences: Information Effects and Policy Implications" *with Shaun Hargreaves Heap, Christel Koop, Konstantinos Matakos and Asli Unan*. **Covid Economics**, Issue 22 (2020).

Conferences and invited seminar presentations

2022: In_equality Conference, Konstanz; Berlin BBE Colloquium, M-BEES, Maastricht; Online Social Influence Workshop, Dublin; ECONtribute and C-Seb Design & Behavior Seminar, University of Cologne; European Economic Association Congress, Milan; American Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Inequality in Rome Seminars, Roma Tre University.

2021: FAIR NHH Seminar, Bergen; Monash-Warwick Applied Young Economist Webinar; 'Memory, Nar-

ratives and Belief Formation' Workshop, Munich; Young Economist Meeting, Brno; REXCon21 Conference on Social Preferences and Social Norms; ESA Global Online Meeting; NoBeC Early Career Researcher Talk; BEADS Seminar – University of Birmingham; HEIRS 'The Illusion of Merit' Workshop; NYU-CESS Annual Experimental Political Science Conference; JHU-LSE Conference on Experimental Insights from Behavioural Economics on Covid-19.

2020: Institutions and Political Inequality Seminar – WZB; Young Economist Meeting (cancelled due to Covid-19); ESA Global Online Meeting; Social BRIDGES Conference on COVID-19; Oxford-LSE Political Economy Graduate Conference.

Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

2022	Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, BRIQ Institute.
2022	Spring School in Behavioural Economics, San Diego.
2022	Postgraduate Research Award, School of Politics & Economics, King's College London.
2020	Behavioural Game Theory Summer School, University of East Anglia.
2020	Best MA Political Economy Dissertation, King's College London.
2020	Best MA Political Economy overall performance, King's College London.
2019	LISS DTP 1+3 Scholarship, Economic and Social Research Council: about £85,000.
2017	King's Experience Research Award, King's College London.

Grants

2020	King's Together Rapid COVID-19 call (with Shaun Hargreaves Heap (PI), Christel Koop, Konstantinos Matakos and Asli Unan): £18,424.
2020	Comparative Time Sharing Experiments, CESS Nuffield, University of Oxford.
2019	Templeton Foundation Grant, John Templeton Foundation (with Shaun Hargreaves Heap and Konstantinos Matakos): £10,000.

Refereeing

Southern Economic Journal, Eurasian Economic Review.

Teaching

2022	Behavioural Political Economy (TA), King's College London
2022	Political Economy of Inequality (TA), King's College London
2021/22	Research Design (TA), London School of Economics
2021	Intermediate Microeconomics (TA), King's College London
2021	Behavioural Political Economy (TA), King's College London
2021	Political Economy of Inequality (TA), King's College London
2020/21	Research Design (TA), London School of Economics <i>Nominated for LSE Inclusive Teaching Award</i>
2020	Intermediate Microeconomics (TA), King's College London

Academic Service

2021 - 2022 Executive Committee Member, Public Policy Research Network
2019 - Postgraduate Research Student Representative, King's College London

Other Information

Software Skills: R, Stata, LaTeX, Z-tree, oTree, Python

Language Skills: German (native), English (fluent), French (basic), Italian (basic)

Nationality: German

References

Shaun Hargreaves Heap

Professor
Department of Political Economy
King's College London
s.hargreavesheap@kcl.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 7848 1689

Bertil Tungodden

Professor
Department of Economics, FAIR
Norwegian School of Economics
Bertil.Tungodden@nhh.no
+47 5595 9261

Konstantinos Matakos

Associate Professor
Department of Political Economy
King's College London
konstantinos.matakos@kcl.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 7848 7326